

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE

February 19, 2003
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
Cholla Room
Phoenix, Arizona

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Sowers, Avondale
Mike Tibbett, Carefree
Bob Lee, Cave Creek
Alex Banachowski, Chandler
*Unappointed, El Mirage
*Pam Anderson, Fountain Hills
*Unappointed, Gila Bend
*JoRene Deveau, Gila River Indian
Community
A- Ben Cox, Gilbert
Bill Griffiths, Glendale
Steve Burger, Goodyear
Chuck Ransom, Litchfield Park

V - Armando Rivas, Paradise Valley
David Nakagawara, Peoria
*Rick Doell, Phoenix
*Tim Wegner, Queen Creek
Dave Potter, Scottsdale
Forrest Fielder, Surprise
*Michael Williams, Tempe
Mario Rochin, Tolleson
*Skip Blunt, Wickenburg
Bob Cooperider, Youngtown
*Tom Ewers, Maricopa County
*Rus Brock, Home Builders Association
Randy Wolff, Mesa

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

A-Those members participating via audioconference

V-Those members participating via videoconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cheryl Levandowski, City of Peoria
Michelle Green, MAG
Michael Neary, Arizona Solar Energy
Industrial Association

Harry Wolfe, MAG
Constance Kish, MAG

1. Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2003

Mario Rochin moved to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Ken Sowers. Mr. Lee asked if there were any comments prior to taking a vote. Cheryl Levandowski requested that the minutes be reworded on page 4 to read that she requested that the vote be postponed on the motion because David Nakagawara is new to the committee. A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

4. Call to the Public

The chair asked if anyone from the public or the committee would like to discuss a topic that is not on the agenda. Steve Burger mentioned the MAG Permit Technician Forum that meets bi-monthly on the fourth Monday of the month from 10 am until noon. Mr. Burger encouraged members to send issues to the group indicating that nothing is political the issues discussed relate to front counter administrative topics.

The chair then asked if anyone had comments relating to the reports on NFPA 5000 that were circulated by Steve Burger. Hearing none Mr. Lee stated that the Oregon Fire Marshall report was very comprehensive. Bob stated that the committee found that the National process for ICC is more appropriate and efficient for adopting codes.

Steve Burger asked if anyone had seen the Mesa website relating to the I codes forum.

Bill Griffiths asked if anyone has seen the Colorado legislation that privatizes the building inspection process.

Mario indicated that this could be an attempt to save money by not paying benefits; it could also be a way of passing on responsibility.

Bob stated a concern that people would be shopping for the cheapest building inspection services and end up with a building inspector that did not have time to do the job properly. He indicated that it would be a concern for him.

Mr. Lee then referred to the roster indicating that there are no corrections to the updated roster. Mr. Lee then went on to explain that he has invited a guest to speak to the committee regarding truncated domes for access to curb cuts and ramps. He continued by explaining that after a 10-year moratorium they are now legal. He indicated that truncated domes are a necessary and that the speaker would present an

alternative.

5. Harry Wolf Building for an Aging Population

Mr. Wolf introduced his topic by explaining its origins. He indicated that he had been working on the issues of aging and mobility as they relate to Airports when it occurred to him that this really has broader implications. He indicated that he would take approximately 10 minutes to present the seniors perspective explaining that changes could be made to codes and building design to make the built environment more accessible to the aging population. A copy of the presentation is posted on the MAG website under the building codes committee. When Mr. Wolf finished his presentation, he asked the committee for suggestions on how to proceed with this issue from a building codes perspective.

Forrest Fielder asked if there were other initiatives underway around the Country.

Harry replied by providing examples such as research done in Ontario, Canada explaining that there was a contest for young engineers to design for special populations. Harry indicated that there had not been much research done in the US yet. There is interest but no programs at the moment. Los Angeles is very interested; they are working on maintaining grade because changing grade poses many problems for elderly people. Mr. Wolf also indicated that many of the proposed changes would actually benefit more than the aging population, everyone can benefit from some of the recommended changes. LA is also looking at Illumination standards and talking signs.

Steve asked Harry if he had spoken with Sky Harbor Airport. Harry said that he had and that they are trying to develop consistent signing. Mr. Wolf also spoke about the volunteer program at sky harbor.

Cheryl mentioned the use of Golf Carts at malls and suggested that something like that might be appropriate to move people around.

Harry responded by stating that the design of the cart is important people with special needs should be able to get in and out of them easily. He also stated that it is interesting to note that it is possible to board buses at Sky Harbor at grade.

Bob indicated that there are certainly broader implications and that the building codes committee could help because of the code enforcement background.

Harry suggested that subcommittees might be helpful.

Bob thanked Harry for his presentation and indicated that the committee would think of some ways that they may be able to help or consider options and let him know.

6. Permit Requirements for Solar Hot Water Systems

The chair introduced Michael Neary of the Arizona Chapter of the Solar Energy Industries Association to present a proposed process for permitting solar hot water heating systems. Dave Potter apologized for Anthony Floyd who was planning on attending today's meeting; however, he is ill and unable to attend.

Mr. Neary circulated an outline that is available from Michelle Green upon request.

Mr. Neary then asked if there were any questions or comments on the proposed process.

Bob Lee asked if the SRCC requires or recommends.

Mr. Neary replied by stating that it is required by the Arizona Department of Commerce Energy Office. He indicated that the document can be found on the azsolarcenter.org website. It is a State tax credit, the only one approved by the manufacturer.

Bob commented that if it is too restrictive it may not encourage compliance.

Mr. Neary replied by stating that the Solar Energy Industries Association is trying to encourage OG300 and that the industry is happy with that.

Bob referred to the roof systems asking if an analysis would be required.

Mr. Neary replied that there would be 80-40 gallons stored on the roof and that in all of his years of practice he has only encountered one problem with roof support.

Cheryl asked about tax credits and asked if this is in the code already.

Bob replied by stating that the intent is uniformity indicating that there are changes in interpretation when actually applying for a building permit.

Mr. Neary explained that the process could work as a checklist.

Dave Potter asked for more specificity on # 2 indicating that it would need more detail if it were to act as a checklist, we do not want to do an analysis for each installation.

Mr. Neary expressed concern about bringing the entire system up to code indicating that there are issues when this happens. It is different for each city.

Forrest asked if the intent is to use this for retrofit or upgrade.

Mr. Neary responded by saying that the intent is for both new and replacement.

Forrest indicated that planning departments may pose a problem.

Mr. Neary indicated that this issue had been discussed and that the biggest issue would be with CC&R's.

Bob indicated that point loading may be a potential problem suggesting that spreading that load over multiple trusses would be a good idea.

Ken Sowers asked if there is a back-up system.

Mr. Neary replied that there is.

Ken then remarked that that would have to be taken into consideration in the thermostat.

Dave Potter suggested that the committee come up with a design standard that did not require the signature of a design professional. Would a maximum point load be helpful, he asked.

Bob suggested 15 lb/sq. ft.

Bill Griffiths suggested that 5 might be more reasonable.

Dave Potter agreed with the 5 lb point load maximum.

Armando asked how big the panels for a 4-7 bedroom home would be.

Mr. Neary responded that in the Phoenix area you might have 2 4x8 panels, for a large house you might have two 80 gallon tanks and two 4x10 panels.

Mr. Neary concluded his presentation and said that he would make revisions to the proposed process and bring them back before the committee.

11. Update on the State Plumbing Code

The chair indicated that Steve Burger may need to leave early so his agenda item was moved up. Steve then provided an update on reported on HB 2325 stating that so far the bill has been voted down 9-2 so it is not likely that the bill will make it. Steve also reported on SB1213 which is making its way through the process now indicating that if the votes are there the bill will be heard. Steve went on to explain that out of the 9 that voted against it most felt the need to explain their vote it was commonly stated that people felt that taking it out would make things worse. Steve stated that

people seem to think that the codes will provide uniformity. Steve then reported that the chairperson for the Commission has resigned.

7. Update on the Activities of the Plans Examiner Building Inspectors Forum

Cheryl indicated that she is very pleased with the turnout for the meetings. Bob referred to the issue of fireblocking that he raised. Bob indicated that he was looking for something that the committee could vote on. Cheryl indicated that the committee would work on it and present something in time for the next building codes committee meeting.

Steve Burger then asked about the existence of code change forms that might make the process a little easier.

Ben Cox, who is past chair of the Forum said there was something developed by the first chair of the committee and that he would look for it and forward what he found to Cheryl.

Bob asked if we could have the meeting minutes in time for the March 19th meeting of the building codes committee.

Cheryl indicated that she could bring copies to that meeting but that they would not be ready in time for the MAG mailout.

Bob then asked Cheryl if the Forum could look at how member agencies deal with multiple yard lines in a trench.

8. Southwest Gas Luncheon

Michelle explained that Southwest Gas would be hosting the luncheon that will begin at noon with a presentation from Charlie Gohman at 12:30. She also stated that the regular meeting will begin following the presentation. Michelle asked if there were any objections. There were no comments on this agenda item.

9. Consideration of Meeting Every Other Month

Dave Potter indicated that this is an official organization that should show that member agencies are working closely together.

Mario indicated that he felt that the schedule was tough but that he could go either way.

Armando presented videoconferencing as an option and indicated that he would assist anyone that wanted to use the technology.

Bob stated that Jo Rene suggested having member agencies host as an alternative. Cheryl indicated that that would not be realistic because of the amount of travel involved.

Chuck suggested that the committee meet every month but perhaps at an earlier start time.

Bob asked if people had a chance to look at the proposed meeting dates and requested any changes. The chair then decided that the issue could be continued at next months meeting.

10. Work Program FY 2004

Michelle explained that a copy of the building codes section of the workprogram for the fiscal year 2004 was included with the notice for this meeting and asked that anyone that would like to comment on the work program to send comments to her by the end of the month.

12. Updated MAG Building Codes Committee Membership

The membership list is e-mailed every month. No changes to the up-to-date roster were suggested.

13. Topics for Future Agendas

Topics suggested for future agenda items include the following:

- ❑ Code worksheet Date and Update
- ❑ Mike raised concerns regarding soil certification for built-up pads (it was suggested that this go through the plans examiners forum).
- ❑ Dave Potter indicated that the City of Scottsdale is working on prescriptive requirements for energy. He would like to bring this before the committee when it is complete.

Armando then asked about the Notebook for the committee. Michelle indicated that unfortunately staff has not had time or resources to devote to getting the notebook up to date.

14. Adjournment

The next meeting will be a luncheon meeting held on March 19, 2003 at noon in the Cholla Room. Steve Burger made the motion to adjourn, Bob Lee seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.